BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

tel (250) 387-0327
fax (250) 387-0329

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Labour

- **The degree of union coverage among employed persons in British Columbia declined slightly in the first 6 months of 1999 over the previous year.** With 35.4% of employees in the province covered by collective agreements, BC is in fifth place among the provinces, with Quebec having the highest rate of coverage at 40.3%. Alberta recorded the lowest rate at 26.2%.

  The BC public sector was almost 4 times as unionized as the private sector in 1998. Eighty-two percent of public sector employees had coverage compared with 24% of private sector employees. Men and women had very similar rates at 36.8% and 36.4% respectively. Almost half (49.8%) of employees between 45 and 54 years of age had union coverage, while younger and older workers had lower rates. Employees with post secondary qualifications also were more likely to have union coverage (42%) than those with less education (28% - 32%).

  By sector, highest union coverage levels were in public administration (76%) and education (74%), followed by utilities, health care and transportation (all at 64%). Lowest rates (7%) were recorded among persons employed in professional, scientific and technical services companies. The rate for financial industries employees was 14% and for those in retail and wholesale trade, 17%.

  Larger firms were more likely to be unionized than smaller firms. Union coverage rates also increased with the length of job tenure and were higher for permanent than non-permanent employees.

  Average weekly earnings of full-time employees without union coverage were approximately three-quarters of that of their union counterparts. Part-time non-union employees fared less well with earnings slightly more than half that of unionized workers. Part-time non-union workers also worked fewer hours per week on average.
  Source: Statistics Canada

Education

- **One and one-half percent of post-secondary graduates in 1995 had moved to the USA by the summer of 1997 and by March of 1999, 18% of those had returned to Canada.** Americans who graduated from a Canadian institution were not included.

  Of the graduates who moved, 23% held Masters or PhD degrees. Nearly one half of the graduates who moved ranked themselves near the top of their graduating class. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Tuition fees at BC universities remained unchanged for both Canadian and foreign students for the 1999-2000 academic year.** By contrast, Canadian students in the University of Toronto Arts program face, for example, a 9.0% increase while foreign students in the same program are looking at a 3.8% increase. Annual tuition for a full-time Canadian student in Arts at UBC is $2,295 while the similar program at U of T costs $3,835. However, a foreign student in Arts at UBC will pay $13,830 compared with $8,639 at U of T. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Income

- **The incidence of low income after tax among families in British Columbia increased by almost a percentage point in 1997 over the previous year to 9.8%.** A slight decline was re-

Report **Regional Migration Outlook**

Did you know...
as you reminisce about those old summer pastimes, there are only 7 drive-ins still operating in British Columbia.

ported for unattached individuals, with the incidence in 1997 at 19.6%. The low income cut-off is defined as one-half the median family after-tax income, adjusted for family size. In British Columbia this means 104,000 families and 127,000 unattached individuals are within this definition of low income. (Note: Statistics Canada uses several different definitions for low income, only one of which is presented here.) Nationally, the incidence of low income is highest for young families and for unattached individuals in the years just before 65 when pensions tend to kick in. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Culture

- **British Columbians were among the most generous individual benefactors of cultural organizations in 1997, giving an average of $75 per donor.** Although 3.2% of Albertans made donations, compared to 2.7% of British Columbians, their average contribution was smaller ($72). Ontario led the provinces with average donations of $79. BC's municipal governments were also the most generous among local governments contributing $77 per capita to culture. The average Canadian per capita contribution by municipalities was $48. The federal government's contribution to culture in BC was $38 per capita, the lowest for any of the provinces. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The movies are continuing to attract more viewers in British Columbia.** Paid admissions at regular theatres reached just over 15 million in the 1997-98 fiscal year, up 16% from 10 years earlier. However, admissions had declined to a low of just over 10 million in 1991-92. On a per capita basis, British Columbians went to the movies 3.8 times in the latest reported year, compared with 3.0 times in 1991-92 and 4.2 times in 1987-88. *Source:Statistics Canada*

Health

- **Women in Vancouver and Victoria had mortality rates from lung cancer above the average for women in the 27 cities across Canada included in a recent Statistics Canada study.** Men in BC's major cities, although showing rates below the national city average, had rates of lung cancer mortality that were significantly higher than those for women. Mortality rates for heart disease for both men and women in BC's metropolitan areas are among the lowest in Canada. Data used in the study was age-standardized.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Fifty-eight percent of BC's population aged 15 or older was estimated to have dental plan coverage, second to Ontario at 60%.** In addition, the 1996-97 survey reported that 63% of the provincial population had made a visit to the dentist in the past year, with the most common reason being routine care. British Columbians benefited from more services available, having one active licenced dentist for every 1,600 people compared with one dentist for every 1,919 people Canada-wide (1992 data).

  Source: Statistics Canada

Aquaculture

- **The value of aquaculture production in British Columbia reached $238 million dollars in 1998, up 66% in the 5 years since 1993.** Ninety-six percent of the total value in 1998 was farmed salmon. The balance included farmed trout, clams, oysters and scallops. More than half of the value of Canada's aquaculture production is produced in BC. This province leads the country in farmed salmon production, Ontario in-trout, the maritimes in oysters and PEI inmussels. BC exported $241 million of farmed salmon in 1998 and $1 million of farmed trout. Ninety-three percent of the total went to the United States and approximately 3% each to Taiwan and Japan. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Farming

- **In 1996, the average BC dairy farm reported net operating income of $67,874, second highest after Alberta, although operating margins were second lowest after Newfoundland, at 17.1 cents on the dollar.** Farmers in BC faced the highest average general expenses, of any of the provinces at 52.2%, mostly because salary costs were a greater share of the total – 19.1% compared with the national average of 11.1%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

August 27, 1999

Infoline Report: Regional Migration Outlook

Contact: Ruth McDougall / (250) 387-0337

Originally published in First Quarter 1999 issue, *Migration Highlights*. Annual subscription: $30 + GST

Summary

BC STATS prepares population projections for the province as a whole as well as for various types of administrative areas within the province, such as development regions (8), regional districts (28) and local health areas (88). The projections are updated annually to reflect the most recent information on regional trends in fertility, mortality and migration, as well as specific events that could affect population growth. This article presents the major migration assumptions underlying the latest update (P.E.O.P.L.E. 24) to the sub-provincial projections.

The short-term outlook for this projection is for continued slow economic growth, which in turn will result in reduced interprovincial migration to the province, relative to the early part of this decade. The influence of the slowdown in the Asian economies and its effect on demand in the resource sectors is having a definite impact on the economies of resource-dependent areas in this province. As a result, there will likely be some movement out of the communities that are resource-driven and into areas such as the Lower Mainland and the Capital region. Over the longer-term, it is expected that the resource sectors will recover and that people will return to these communities.

Vancouver Island-Coast Region

This region has most of the population concentrated in its south-east corner, particularly within the Capital and Nanaimo regional districts. Most of the smaller communities in the northern portion of the region, and many in the more southerly areas as well, are heavily dependent on the forest sector. Consequently, migration patterns to these areas tend to fluctuate with trends in this sector. Accordingly, the short-term outlook for the northern portions of this region is for net outflows of population until conditions in the forest sector stabilize. Some of this movement will be to areas such as the Capital and Nanaimo regional districts, which means that despite a drop in the overall interprovincial migration to British Columbia, these areas will probably still have significant inflows of migrants.

Over the longer-term, it is expected that the onset of retirement for the baby boom generation will lead to somewhat larger net inflows of migrants to areas such as the Capital and Nanaimo regional districts (as well as other retirement centres such as the Okanagan). The increase in migration to these areas will likely be modest, since the elderly tend to move less than younger people. However, of those that do move, proportionately more will choose these established retirement centres and this should result in an increase in the amount of migration to these areas. Within the most heavily populated areas, there will likely be some spread outward to nearby communities, particularly as housing prices escalate in the core areas. For example, in the Capital region, there will be increased growth in the Western Communities relative to the core and peninsula municipalities.

The British Columbia-level population projection 3/99 forms the control total population for P.E.O.P.L.E. 24 to which all regions must sum.[1] Regional migration is projected using a combination of historical trends and information on future major projects that are certain to have an impact on population. In general, the long-term (beyond five years) forecasts are based on historical trends with some very broad assumptions used to modify these trends. In the short-term, consideration is given to more specific events that will drive migration patterns. Examples are mine openings and closures, changes to the Allowable Annual Cut for various Timber Supply Areas and Tree Farm Licenses, major construction activity, or other major projects.

[1] See "Population Forecast 3/99 Technical Appendix: Forecast Assumptions," Population Section, BC Stats, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, Government of British Columbia, March 1999.

Figure 1

Vancouver Island-Coast Migration

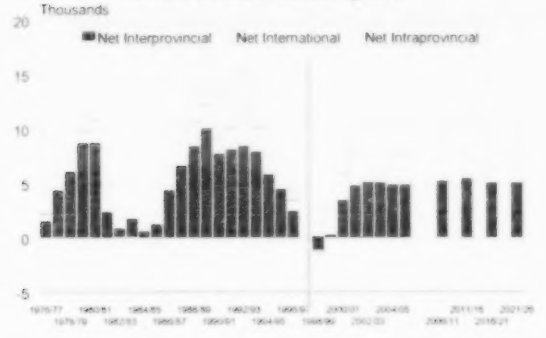
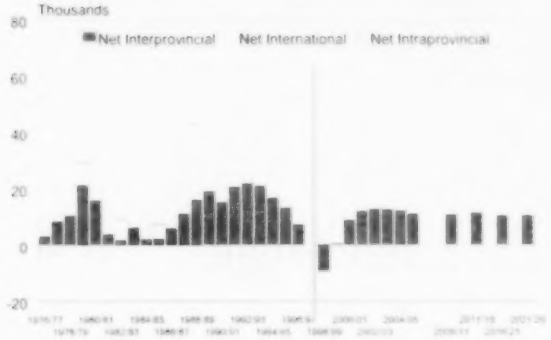


Figure 2

Mainland-Southwest Migration



Mainland-Southwest Region

This is the most populous region in the province and receives the bulk of immigrants and interprovincial in-migrants. Over half of net interprovincial migrants to British Columbia and almost 90 percent of net international migrants to the province choose to settle in the Mainland-Southwest region. Conversely, in terms of intraprovincial migration, or migration within the province, there are generally more people moving out of the area than are moving in. In the past, when the resource sectors were in a downturn, intraprovincial outflows from the Lower Mainland have tended to decline as a result of weaker economic opportunity in the rest of the province. The short-term outlook is that current tightening in the resource sectors will lead to intraprovincial outflows from resource-dependent communities and into the Lower Mainland similar to what happened in the mid-eighties, but likely not with the same severity. This will ensure that net migration levels to this region will remain high despite significantly lower net interprovincial migration to the province.

Over the longer-term, the distribution of growth in the Mainland-Southwest region will be influenced by the implementation of the *Livable Region Strategic Plan* for the Greater Vancouver Regional District. This plan proposes a "growth concentration area" comprised of Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Moody, Port Coquitlam, New Westminster, Vancouver, North Surrey, and North Delta. The plan is to concentrate growth in these areas and to reduce traffic congestion by locating jobs near where people live. The patterns of growth will depend largely on the timing of transportation projects such as the proposed Skytrain lines. The longer-term outlook is for reduced growth rates for areas outside the growth concentration area, but as long as migration to the province continues to be strong, all areas within this region will continue to experience growth.

Thompson-Okanagan Region

The slowdown in the resource sectors will cause a drop in migration for this region for the next couple of years. This region has a strong dependence on forestry, and activities in that sector will have an effect on migration flows to the area. Mining is also an important economic driver, and the closure of four mines in the last few years will contribute to a reduction in migration to this region in the short-term.[1]

Conversely, there could be an increase in migration around 2005 when baby boomers begin to retire. This area is a popular retirement centre, and the increase in the proportion of retirees in the population will benefit this region. Over the longer-term, this area can expect to receive strong migration growth, on average, with the economic cycle in the resource sectors exerting some influence on the magnitude of migration flows.

[1] This projection assumes that the current closure of the Highland Valley mine is temporary and will have few migration effects. The effect on net migration to the area will only occur following the permanent closure of the mine some time after 2010.

Figure 3
Thompson-Okanagan Migration

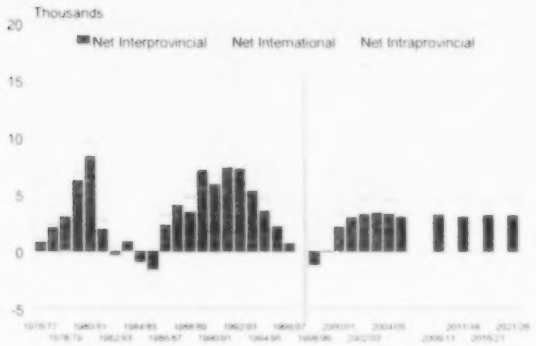
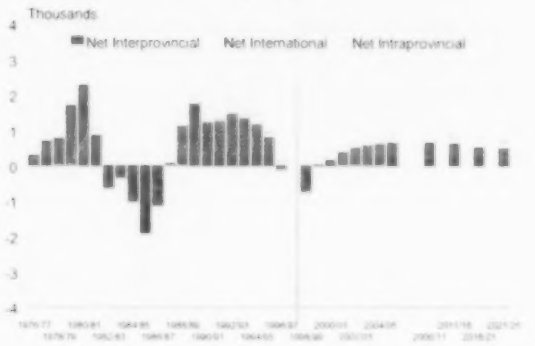


Figure 4
Kootenay Migration



Kootenay Region

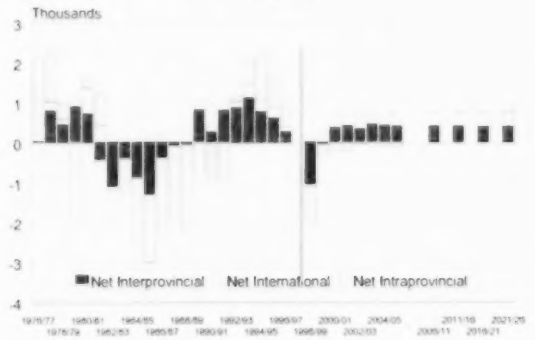
Mining, and coal mining in particular, is the main economic driver in this region. There are five large coal mines in the region, plus the Sullivan lead-zinc mine. The Sullivan mine at Kimberley is scheduled to close in 2001, and this will have a significant effect on the population of that community and the surrounding area. It is expected that net in-migration to this area will slow around that time. There are some major hydroelectric projects either underway or planned for the near future that could boost the population of this region, at least for the short-term.

Over the longer-term, depletion of reserves at the coal mines may cause some outflows of population, but there are other deposits that could be developed and a lot will depend on whether or not the demand is there to justify the investment in infrastructure. Overall, it is expected that this region will receive net inflows of migrants throughout most of the projection, possibly beginning to wane late in the projection as the coal mines begin to deplete their reserves. There will likely be a net outflow over the first year of the projection due to the slump in the resource sectors.

Cariboo Region

This region has recently experienced uncharacteristically large inflows of migrants, but with low metal prices, which have affected the viability of some mines in the region, and the downturn in the forest sector, it is expected that net migration to this area will slow. The Cariboo is home to a large number of sawmills and pulp mills and as such, is highly dependent on the fortunes of the forest industry. It is expected that migration to this area will slow considerably over the short-term until the resource sectors begin to recover, with some net migration outflows for at least the next couple of years. There are some significant mineral deposits that will bring people into the area once they are developed, but until metal prices improve, it is unlikely that any new mines will be constructed. Over the longer-term, the outlook is for relatively strong positive net inflows, on average.

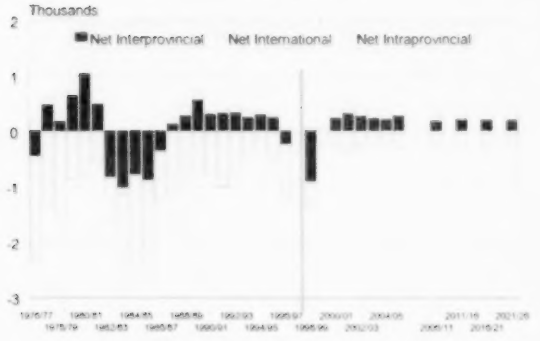
Figure 5
Cariboo Migration



North Coast Region

This region has traditionally experienced net outflows of migrants, but with the major projects planned for the region, it is expected that there will be small net inflows of migrants over the longer-term. The Kitimat-Terrace area, in particular, should gain from one of the planned projects. The agreement between Alcan and the provincial government concerning compensation for the cancellation of the Kemano Completion project should result in the expansion of the aluminum smelter at Kitimat. This project should result in net inflows of people to the region as the employment base is expanded. In addition to direct employment at the smelter, there will be significant indirect and induced employment as well, which should benefit Terrace as well as Kitimat. There are also several mineral deposits in this region that will likely be future mine sites, and this will create employment and bring people into the area as well.

Figure 6
North Coast Migration



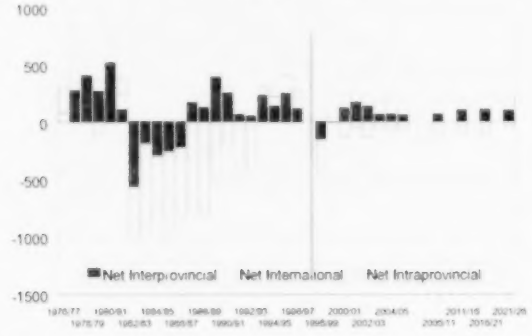
On the negative side, there will also be some mine closures during the projection period, and this could result in some net outflows of population, at least for the areas most directly affected. In the short-term, the downturn in the resource sectors will hurt this area and cause net outflows of population. The downturn in the forest sector, combined with declining fish stocks and poor metal prices will likely contribute to net population outflows in the short-term. Over the longer-term, however, the expectation is for net inflows of people due to the major projects that are planned for the area.

Nechako Region

Most of the population lies in the Bulkley Valley, in the southern portion of this region. Mining plays an important role in migration patterns to the area. Not only is the region mineral rich, but Smithers is also one of the main supply and service points for mineral exploration and development in northern British Columbia, which means many of the benefits from mines in remote northern areas accrue to Smithers and the surrounding area. Currently metal prices have hit bottom, and this will likely hamper the development of new mines, which means it may be a couple of years before this area will see the benefits of new mine employment. However, over the longer-term it is likely that developments in the mining industry will be a significant driver of in-migration.

In addition to mining, the forest sector will also be a main determinant of migration levels to the region. Recently, the Allowable Annual Cut of the Cassiar Timber Supply Area was increased threefold. If this timber is harvested, it could mean a significant economic boost for the northern portion of the Nechako region. The improved access resulting from new logging roads could lead to further discoveries of mineral deposits and the development of new communities. This region has traditionally lost population due to migration, but with the potential of the resource sectors, it is expected that there will be net inflows of migrants over the long-term.

Figure 7
Nechako Migration

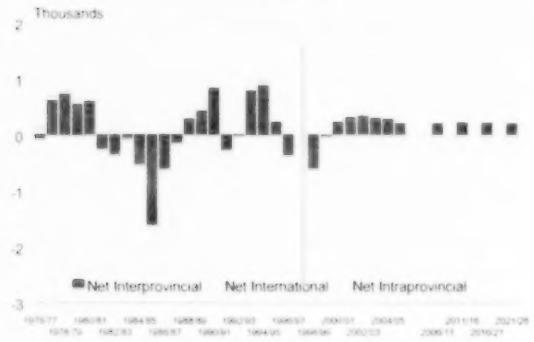


Northeast Region

The Northeast region has benefited from a booming oil and gas sector and this is expected to continue for some time. This region has traditionally had a net loss of migrants, but more recently, the activity in the

resource sectors has brought more people into the area than have left the area. This trend of net in-migration to the area is expected to continue through the long-term as oil and gas exploration and other energy projects continue to provide employment in the region.

Figure 8
Northeast Migration



Layoffs at the two coal mines due to volume reductions in shipments to Japan will affect migration in the short-term and there will be some population outflows as a result, but other than this one time set-back, the outlook is for net inflows of migrants over most of the projection period.

The projections for the total population of each region are available on the BC STATS' web site (http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca), while the detailed age/gender projections can be purchased from BC STATS in either printed or electronic form.

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Infoline

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/99	% change on one year ago
BC	4,028.3	0.7
Canada	30,482.9	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	1997	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	109,347	3.3
GDP *($ 1992 millions)*	98,201	2.2
GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)*	24,775	0.1
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)*	16,340	-2.3
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Jun	3,029	9.6
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jun	2,463	13.7
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jun	2,769	1.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on
(all items - 1992=100)	Jul '99	one year ago
BC	112.0	1.4
Canada	110.8	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jul '99	one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,058	0.9
Employed - BC	1,881	1.2
Unemployed - BC	178	-2.6
		Jul '98
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.6	8.9
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.7	8.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 25/99	Aug 26/98
Prime Business Rate	6.25	6.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.05	6.75
- 5 year	7.80	7.15
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 25/99	Aug 26/98
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4959	1.5622
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6682	0.6388
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun '99	one year ago
BC	628.54	0.6
Canada	612.62	0.8

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Earnings } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

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- Current Statistics, August 1999
- Immigration Highlights, Second Quarter 1999

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BC STATS, Min. of Finance & Corporate Relations, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gems8.gov.bc.ca